

REMARKS

1) First of all, the Examiner is directed to **a request for suspension of action under 37 C.F.R. 1.103(c) for a period of three (3) months** filed with a Request for Continuing Examination filed on the above-identified application. At page 3, lines 6-9 of the Advisory Action dated February 14, 2008, the Examiner states that the additional experiments using different combinations of inorganic fillers (silica and aluminum oxide) might provide a conclusive showing of unexpected results for the claimed combination. Therefore, in order to submit such additional testing data, Applicants has filed the request for suspension for a period of three (3) months herewith. During the period, Applicants may file a supplemental response with such testing data pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion.

2) Claims 1-7 and 11-20 are currently pending in the present application. No amendments to the claims are being made in this response to the Advisory Action.

Proper consideration of each of the pending claims is respectfully requested at present.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Final Office Action dated October 31, 2007, claims 1-3 and 11-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over "the admitted prior art" (APA) in view of Fujiki U.S. Patent '094 (U.S. Patent No. 5,438,094), Simizu U.S. Patent '140 (U.S. Patent No. 4,216,140) and Takuman EP '211 (European Published Application No. 1 225 211 A2). Further, claims 1-7 and 11-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over APA in view of Tsuji EP '702 (European Published Application No. 0,764,702), Takuman EP '211 and Simizu US '140. Further, in the Advisory Action dated February 14, 2008, the obviousness

rejection has been maintained while citing new references (i.e., Ichikawa U.S. '495 (U.S. Patent No. 6,501,495) and Murakami U.S. '339 (U.S. Patent No. 6,372,339)).

Applicants respectfully traverse. Reconsideration and withdraw of the rejections is respectfully requested based upon the following considerations.

Incorporation of Earlier Remarks

On January 31, 2008, Applicants filed the response to the Final Office Action of October 31, 2007, where substantially the same references were cited (i.e., Fujiki U.S. Patent '094, Simizu U.S. Patent '140, Takuman EP '211 and Tsuji EP '702). Accordingly, the remarks set forth in the prior response of January 31, 2008, are incorporated herein by reference. In short, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the features of the present invention, and consequently a *prima facie* case of obviousness is not established based on the cited references and any general knowledge. Furthermore, the present invention exhibits unexpected results, which are not disclosed and suggested by the cited references. Thus, the present invention is not obvious over the cited combinations of references.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the response of January 31, 2008, at present as they are believed to remain pertinent to the Advisory Action, vis-à-vis, the pending claims.

From the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw each of these rejections.

Request for Continuing Examination and Request for 3 Month Suspension of Action

Applicants have filed a Request for Continuing Examination with a request for suspension of action on the above-identified application under 37 C.F.R. 1.103(c) for a period of three (3) months. Applicants respectfully request that **the request for 3 month suspension of action** be granted.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. A notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Toyohiko Konno, Reg. No. L0053, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated

FEB 29 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By  #41,541

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